

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-03 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
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R 132320Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
XMT AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, APRIL 13, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

IN ANNOUNCING THE NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY TRAVELING WITH SECRETARY VANCE TO AFRICA I INADVERTENTLY OMITTED ONE NAME AND I WOULD LIKE TO CORRECT THE RECORD NOW BY NOTING THAT ANTHONY LAKE, WHO OF COURSE IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE POLICY PLANNING STAFF HERE, IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE SECRETARY'S PARTY.

A: (IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION) NOW, WITH REGARD TO THE LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN MCCLOSKEY, THERE WAS AN ETHIOPIAN ASPECT TO THAT LETTER. BUT ALL MY OTHER ANSWERS HAVE HAD TO DO WITH THE USE BY ISRAEL OF CLUSTER BOMBS.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY TRANSFER OF CBU'S BY ISRAEL TO ETHIOPIA?

I THINK THAT IS WHAT MCCLOSKEY HAD IN MIND.

A: RIGHT.
TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE QUESTION THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ASSURED US THAT IT HAD NOT PROVIDED ETHIOPIA

WITH U.S. SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF ANY KIND AND
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THAT, OF COURSE, WOULD INCLUDE CLUSTER BOMBS AND WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO CONTRADICT WHAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE TOLD US.

Q: PRESIDENT CARTER, AMONG THESE WORDS THAT ARE GOING TO BE "ANALYZED AND DISECTED" (QUOTED FROM REMARKS IN LAGOS BY DR. A.R. AKINYEMI) STATED: "THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE, OF COURSE, BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENT, NIGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES, AS WE RECOGNIZE THAT WITHIN OUR OWN COUNTRIES WE HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO ENHANCE HUMAN RIGHTS. SO, WE HAVE A VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP IN OUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE NIGERIANS."

AND IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN I WENT OVER YOUR BOOK AND I DISCOVER THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IN NIGERIA REPORT PUBLIC EXECUTION OF ARMED ROBBERS "AS A DETERRENT MEASURE", GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF ALL RADIO, T.V. AND ALL BUT TWO OF THE SIXTEEN NEWSPAPERS, ONLY ONE POLITICAL PARTY IS ALLOWED, GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF ALL TRADE UNIONS AND NO REDRESS IN COURT FOR FIRED PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

SINCE THE STATE DEPARTMENT THIS MORNING ADMITTED THAT THEY

DO GIVE INPUT TO PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHES OVERSEAS, COULD
YOU EXPLAIN THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN WHAT
THE PRESIDENT SAID AND WHAT YOUR BOOK SAID?

A: I CAN'T. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q: WELL, WOULD YOU TAKE THE QUESTION, BECAUSE EVANS AND
NOVAK MAKE US SUSPICIOUS THAT THE LEFT HAND DOESN'T
KNOW WHAT THE RIGHT IS DOING IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

COULD YOU GET US SOME CLARIFICATION ON THIS?

A: I AM NOT HOPEFUL THAT I CAN GET YOU ANYTHING ON IT,
BUT I WILL ASK.
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Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE VISIT OF THE MALAWI
PRESIDENT HERE, THE PLANNED VISIT?

A: NO, I DON'T, BUT I'LL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: IS THE SECRETARY GOING TO SOUTH AFRICA?

A: MY GUIDANCE YESTERDAY WAS I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU
ON THAT, BUT I WOULDN'T RULE IT OUT.

Q: IT WAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED IN LONDON BY MR. OWEN.

A: O.K. WELL THEN, MR. OWEN HAS OVERTAKEN ME.

Q: IS HE STOPPING IN SUDAN?

A: YES. I BELIEVE HE'S GOING TO BE STOPPING IN THE SUDAN
FOR A REFUELING STOP.

Q: JUST REFUELING?

A: NO. I THINK HE WILL BE MEETING WITH SOME OFFICIALS
THERE. YES.
CHRISTOPHER

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